

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-18 without prejudice and add the following new claims 19-26.

*Sub B1*  
19. (new) A protein comprising an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:54 or a salt thereof..

*A*  
20. (new) A DNA which comprises a DNA having a nucleotide sequence coding for the protein as claimed in claim 19.

21. (new) The DNA as claimed in claim 20 which comprises a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:55.

22. (new) A vector which comprises the DNA as claimed in claim 21.

23. (new) A transformant which is transformed by the vector as claimed in claim 22.

*C*  
24. (new) A method for producing a protein comprising an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:54 or a salt thereof, which comprises cultivating the transformant as claimed in claim 23.

25. (new) A method for determining a ligand to the protein or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 19, which comprises contacting the protein or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 19, with a compound to be tested and measuring a receptor-mediated cell stimulating activity.

A1  
CONT.  
26. (new) A screening method for a novel compound or a salt thereof capable of inhibiting the binding of the protein or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 19 with a ligand, which comprises carrying out the comparison between:

- (i) at least one case where said ligand is contacted with the protein or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 19, and
- (ii) at least one case where said ligand together with a compound to be tested with the protein or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 19, and measuring a receptor-mediated cell stimulating activity.

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REMARKS

Please substitute the originally filed pages 238-270 with the substitute sheets (numbered **238-404**) attached hereto and renumber claims and abstract accordingly.

Applicants have submitted substitute pages 238-404 to include the Sequence Listing as part of this Application.

Applications have amended the Application to include the sequence identification number in the specification where reference is made to the sequence by use of the assigned identifier as required by 37 CFR §1.812(d). No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendment made to the specification.

Applicants enclose herewith a "Statement to Support Filing and Submission in Accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.821-1.825.

Claims 1-18 have been canceled without prejudice and new claims 19-26 have been added. No new matter has been added by virtue of these amendments. Basis for the new claims can be found in the specification and the claims of the original application.